

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6992

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TAGS: PFOR, MARR, NATO, SP

SUBJECT: US- SPANISH COMBINED MILITARY COORDINATION AND PLANNING STAF

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(CMCPS)

REF: MADRID 6455 (DTG 241337Z AUG 76)

SUMMARY INITIAL SPANISH REACTIONS TO U.S. DRAFT TERMS OF
REFERENCE PRESENTED LATE AUGUST ARE QUITE POSITIVE, BUT
SIGNIFICANT DELAYS ARE ENVISAGED IN WORKING OUT FINAL TEXT AND
INSTALLING CMCPS. END SUMMARY.

1. INITIAL FOREIGN MINISTRY REACTION TO U.S. DRAFT TOR HAS BEEN
QUITE FAVORABLE. CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE AMMENDMENT FOCUSES
SO FAR ONLY ON THE ISSUE OF PRESERVING SOME MFA OVERSIGHT OF
PASSAGE TRATING COORDINATING AUTHORITIES TO THE BILATERAL
COMMISSION (ARTICLE 4 OF SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENT 1 OF THE
TREATY) WHICH IS TO MAKE PROPOSALS TO THE COUNCIL ON COORDINATION
WITH NATO.

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2. SIMILARY FROM HIGH GENERAL STAFF OFFICERS INCLUDING LT. GEN VALLESPIN THE CHIEF THE INITIAL REACTION HAS BEEN POSITIVE VALLESPIN HAS SUGGESTED TO CHIEF JUSMG THAT ONLY MINOR ALTER-TIONS SHOULD BE REQUIRED BY THE SPANISH. A KEY WORKING LEVEL MEMBER OF HIS STAFF COMMENTED TO AN EMBOFF THAT THE U.S. DRAFT IS CONSIDERABLY MORE FORTHCOMING THAN HAD BEEN EXPECTED BY THE SPANISH MILITARY BUT THAT THIS VERY FACT WOULD SLOW DOWN THE PROCESS OF ITS CONSIDERATION. THE PROBLEM WAS NOW SQUARELY PRESENTED OF A JOINT UNDERTAKING WHICH WOULD REQUIRE SOME REVISION OF THE SPANISH MILITARY WAY OF DOING THINGS (PARTICULARLY FOR THE ARMY) AND THAT SOME RESISTANCE COULD BE EXPECTED FROM THOSE WHO CONSIDER REORGANIZATION OF ANY KIND TO BE RISKY AT A TIME DOMESTIC POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY. HIS COMMENTS SUGGESTED THAT THE SPANISH MILITARY LEADERSHIP IS PREOCCUPIED NOW WITH DOMESTIC ISSUES. SLOWING DOWN DECISION MAKING ON OTHER MATTERS.

3. FINDING JOINT OFFICE SPACE FOR THE CMCPs AND THE US SPANISH COUNCIL IS ALSO PROVING DIFFICULT. GOS ESTIMATES ARE THAT NEW OFFICE SPACE WILL RENT AT 800,000 TO 1 MILLION PESETAS A MONTH AND THAT 3-4 MILLION PESETAS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR FURNISHINGS AND THE LIKE. RESOLUTION OF THE SPACE PROBLEM IS NOT YET IN SIGHT, WE ARE TOLD.

4. WE ARE USING ALL OPPORTUNITIES TO MOVE THE SPANISH FORWARD EARLY INAGUARATION OF CMCPs. PROSPECTS AT THIS READING, HOWEVER INDICATE IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO ASSUME THAT:
A. THE SPANISH WILL NOT BE READY FOR ANY DETAILED DISCUSSION OF CMCPs TERMS OF REFERENCE BY OCT 1.
B. AN INVITATION TO EUCOM TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSION OF THE US DRAFT TOR WILL NOT BE FORTHCOMING UNTIL OPINIONS ARE IN FROM ALL THREE SPANISH SERVICES, WHICH COULD CARRY US WELL INTO OCTOBER.
C. INSTALLATION OF THE CMCPs COULD BE DELAYED SEVERAL MONTHS (OUT WORKING LEVEL HGS SOURCE SUGGESTS A REALISTIC TARGET WOULD BE EARLY 1977 AND THAT THE INTERIM PERIOD MIGHT BE USED FOR CAREFUL PREPARATION ON BOTH SIDES, INCLUDING EXCHANGES OF VISITS BY THE PROSPECTIVE PARTICIPANTS.)

5. DESPITE THESE PROBLEMS WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE POSITIVE
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SPANISH REACTIONS TO THE
US DRAFT TOR WHICH HAS HELPED CONSIDERABLY TO STILL LINGERING DOUBTS ABOUT THE SERIOUSNESS OF US INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THIS STAFF. THIS IS AN EXCELLENT BEGINNING TO WHAT WILL HAVE TO BE A LONG PATIENT AND TACTFUL EFFORT TO EDUCATE THE SENIOR SPANISH MILITARY LEADERSHIP TO THE BENEFITS OF YET ANOTHER SET OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE STABLE AMBIENCE TO WHICH THEY HAD GROWN ACCUSTOMED DURING THE LONG YEARS OF THE

FRANCO REGIME.

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